

## THE COINS AND JETTONS by M. Archibald

### 1. Henry III, 1216-72

Cut halfpenny, Long-cross type Class Vb or c, struck c. 1255.

Mint: Canterbury

Wt. 0.68 g. (10.5 gr.)

SF4, F20, Phase 4/2, Group 19.

This coin is not much worn but such coins could remain in circulation for long periods without showing appreciable wear. The Long-cross issue went rapidly out of circulation after the introduction of the sterling type in 1279, so the terminus ante quem for the deposition of this coin is c. 1280.

### 2. French jetton, early 15th century<sup>1</sup>

OBV: +PIEIBAR\*DV\*A AnEI; shield of France modern.

Rev: Cross fleur-de-lisee with A in each angle within a quatrefoil with a mullet between two pellets in each angle, all within outer circle.

Wt. 3.96 g.

Diam. 22 mm.

SF10, F186, Phase 5, Group 23.

### 3. Edward I, 1272-1307

Penny, Class IXb star on breast, struck c. 1300.

Mint: London

Wt. 0.88 g. (13.6 gr.)

Diam. 22 mm.

SF13, F22, Phase 3/2, Group 5.

This coin is somewhat worn and was probably deposited c. 1320-30.

### 4. French jetton of Dauphin, mid-15th century<sup>2</sup>

Obv: +AVE MARIA GRACIA P-A; dolphin to left.

Rev: Cross fleur-de-lisee with A in each angle within quatrefoil, A,V,E and M each between two annulets in the angles, all within outer circle.

Wt. 4.31 g.

Diam. 21 mm.

SF14, U/S.

### 5. English jetton, c. 1300<sup>3</sup>

Obv: Crowned leopard's head; border of pellets in place of legend.

Rev: Cross moline with a pellet in each angle; border of pellets in place of legend.

Wt. 1.92 g.

Diam. 20 mm.

SF17, F156, Phase 3/1, Group 7.

### 6. English jetton of French type, early 15th century<sup>(?)4</sup>

Obv: Uncertain shield with five irregular lines above ?cross border of strokes in place of legend.

Rev: Bowed cross fleur-de-lisee with fleur-de-lis in centre; border of strokes in place of legend. Incomplete piercing from reverse. This jetton is in very crude style.

Wt. 4.81 g.

Diam. 22 mm.

SF35, F143, Phase 5, Group 23.

This jetton is very difficult to date. It looks later than the group of coins of French type produced in the 14th century.

7. Philip the Bold, Duke of Burgundy, 1384-14055

Double mite struck for Flanders.

Obv: +PHILLIP DVX BVRG. Pellet stops, shield of Burgundy within inner c.

Rev: +MONETA FLANDRES. Pellet stop, short cross pattee within inner circle.

Wt. 1.22 g. (18.8 gr.).

SF38, F157, Phase 5, Group 23.

All foreign coins were officially proscribed from circulation in England and it is rare to find them, even as site finds, except in coastal places. In 1464, however, a convention was signed between Edward IV and his brother-in-law, Charles the Bold of Burgundy, to allow the silver groats of England and the silver double patards of the Burgundian territories to circulate freely in the lands governed by both rulers. The convention did not include the base-metal coinages of the Netherlands and so officially this coin should have been taken to the exchange with its fellows on entry and converted into English money.

I have no record of any coin of this particular group having been excavated on a site in England, although various base-metal coins from the Netherlands have been shown to me (e.g. a mite of Louis de Nevers, Count of Flanders, 1322-46, from Dover in 1970). The close trade relations between England and the Low Countries would account for the arrival of such pieces and the escape of a few into unauthorized circulation. The present coin is in relatively unworn condition and is most likely to have been deposited in the reign of Philip the Bold or shortly afterwards. It is so different in design from the English issues that it is unlikely to have survived long in circulation here.

8. Edward III, 1327-77

Penny, Pre-Treaty Coinage, Series C, 1351-2.

Mint: London

Wt. 1.06 g. (16.3 gr.)

SF41, F142, Phase 4/2, Group 18.

This coin is fairly worn and was probably lost at the end of the 14th century but almost certainly before 1413, when the weight of the penny was reduced.

9. Henry VI, 1st Reign, 1422-61

Groat, Annulet type, 1422-7.

Mint: Calais

Wt. 3.63 g. (56.0 gr.)

SF94, F548, Phase 4/2, Group 20.

This coin is unclipped and scarcely worn. It was probably deposited by c. 1440 and almost certainly before 1464 when the weight of the silver coinage was reduced.

10. French jetton, mid-15th century<sup>6</sup>

Obv: xAVE MARIA GRACIA, annulet stops; shield of France modern with one pellet above and three at each side.

Rev: Cross fleur-de-lisee with four annulets at the centre, with two 'A's and two 'M's in opposing angles, all within a quatrefoil with an annulet between two pellets in each outer angle, all within inner circle.

Wt. 5.02 g.

Diam. 29 mm.

SF97, F551, Phase 5, Group 23.

This jetton is in very rough style, and its date would accord with its discovery in the destruction-level of the Hall. It is not possible to say whether it is of 1460 or 1470.

11. French jetton, mid-later 14th century<sup>7</sup>

Obv: +AVE MARIA GRACIA PLENA, double pellet stops; stylised 'castle of Tours', crowned.

Rev: Cross fleur-de-lisee within quatrefoil with a fleur-de-lis on each cusp, a crown between two annulets in each outer angle, all within outer circle.

Wt. 1.63 g.

Diam. 26 mm.

SF113, U/S.

This jetton is in fine style. The crowned castle was introduced onto the coinage by Philip IV in 1337.

12. Edward III, 1327-77

Penny, Florin Issue, 1344-51.

Mint: London

Wt. 0.55 g. (8.5 gr.)

SF128, F599, Phase 5, Group 23.

This coin is very worn and clipped. It is in much worse condition than those of comparable issue-date in the Attenborough hoard buried in c. 1422. It is therefore most likely to have been deposited in the mid-15th century.

13. Richard II, 1377-99

Penny

Mint: York

Wt. 0.67 g. (10.3 gr.) chipped.

SF143, F609, Phase 5, Group ?

This coin is very worn and clipped. It is at least as poor in condition as comparable coins in the Attenborough hoard and so was probably deposited in c. 1425-50.

14. French jetton, mid-14th century<sup>8</sup>

Obv: +ISPART.IISPLTRARTIS; Agnus Dei  
Rev: Cross fleury with quatrefoil in centre and fleur-de-lis in each angle, all within cartouche, .AVE., .OVE. in alternate outer angles.  
Wt. 2.30 g.  
Diam. 28 mm.  
SF259, F119, Phase 5, Group 23.

Despite the illiterate legends, this piece is of fine style.

15. French-type jetton, c. 14009

Obv: XAVE MARIA GRACIA, double annulet stop between last two words only; shield of France modern with an annulet between two pellets at top and at each side.

Rev: Cross fleury with four annulets around a central pellet in centre, 'A' and 'M' in alternating quarters, all within a quatrefoil, an annulet between two pellets in each angle.

Wt. 7.61 g.  
Diam. 30 mm.  
SF289, F424, Phase 4/2, Group 17.

The style of this piece is very rough, on a very thick flan.

16. French jetton, c. 140010

Obv: +AVE MARIA GRACIA PLN ('lombardic' N), double cross stops; shield of France modern (but with the base of a lis just visible at the top of the field) with crown above.

Rev: Cross fleury with quatrefoil in centre all within a quatrefoil in centre, all within quatrefoil at each angle; in the outer angles, +E+, +V+, +A+, (and probably, although illegible here, +G+).

Wt. 1.60 g.  
Diam. 24 mm.  
SF295, F593, Phase 4/2, Group 20.

The obverse type is based on the *écu à la couronne* introduced by Charles VI of France in 1385. This jetton was found in the same level as coin No. 18 below, whose deposition is dated to the early 15th century, so its date fits this chronology satisfactorily.

17. English jetton, early 14th century

Obv: Eagle with head turned back within inner circle; border of pellets within continuous branched border in place of legend.

Rev: Cross moline with a pellet in each angle within inner circle; border of pellets in place of legend (double struck).

Wt. 0.47 g. (corroded)  
Diam. 19 mm.  
SF297, F593, Phase 4/2, Group 20.

Jettons of this type with reverse with a cross moline with pellets in the angles is very securely datable to the later 13th and early 14th centuries and it is therefore curious to find an example in the same level as jetton No. 16 and coin No. 18, both of

which are datable to c. 1400 or early 15th century. Jettons would not normally be expected to survive for so long but if the stratigraphy is secure, then this is a useful demonstration that they occasionally could and this possibility must be borne in mind when considering the date of deposition of jettons.

18. Edward III, 1327-77  
Penny, Pre-Treaty Coinage, Series D, 1352-3  
Mint: Durham  
Wt. 0.80 g. (12.3 gr.).  
SF298, F593, Phase 4/2, Group 20.

This coin is considerably worn and clipped and is comparable in condition to coins of the same issue-period in the Attenborough hoard buried c. 1420. This coin was therefore most probably deposited in the early 15th century. This would tally with the date of the jetton No. 16 found in the same layer but is considerably later than the date of the other jetton found there, No. 17. While coins could become worn and clipped abnormally early, there is virtually no likelihood that this coin was deposited in the mid 14th century.

19. English jetton, c. 1310 Obv: Three leopards of England passant gardant within an inner circle; border of pellets in place of legend  
Rev: Cross moline within smaller than usual inner circle; border of pellets in place of legend.  
Wt. 1.47 g.  
Diam. 22 mm.  
SF307, F646, Phase 3/1, Group 5.

20. Alexander III King of Scots, 1249-86  
Penny, 1st coinage, Long-cross type, 1250-80, Stewart class III.  
Mint: Berwick  
Moneyer: Walter  
Wt. 1.23 g. (19.0 gr.)  
SF336, F558, Phase 2, Group 3.

This coin is folded almost double but the edges of the letters which remain visible enable it to be identified. The Scottish coins of this period were of as good metal as their English contemporaries and of comparable weight; they therefore circulated freely south of the border and are found in English hoards, comprising up to 2-5%. They were demonetized in both Scotland and England after the introduction of the solid-cross sterling coinage in 1279, so that this item was almost certainly deposited before c. 1280. It was therefore neither false nor unacceptable in England and even after the type was demonetized, it was unlikely to have been thrown away as it had a bullion value. I have seen other coins bent double this way.

21. Edward II, 1307-27  
Penny, class XIb c. 1310-14  
Mint: London  
Wt. 1.01 g. (15.6 gr.).  
SF337, F726/3, Phase 5, Group 23.

This coin is unclipped and hardly worn. It was certainly deposited before c. 1350, most probably before c. 1330.

#### Notes

1. F.P. Barnard, *The Casting Counter and Counting Board* (Oxford 1916), PL VI, 47 for general type.
2. *Ibid.* PL VII, 62.
3. G. Berry, *Medieval English Jettons* (London 1974), PL 4, 6A.
4. Barnard *op. cit.* PL VI, 38 (rev. only) for French prototype, and PL III, 59, for English copy.
5. T. Duby, *Traite des Monnaies des Barons*, i, (Paris 1790), 151, PL LII,1.
6. Nothing of this style is illustrated in Barnard (*op. cit.*), but it is not an uncommon group.
7. Barnard *op. cit.* PL V, 28, where the castle is topped by a fleur-de-lis, not a crown.
8. *Ibid.* PL IV, 16.
9. *Ibid.* PL VI, 45 (obv) and PL XXIII, 1 (rev), for jettons of this rough heavy style.
10. *Ibid.* PL VI, 43.
11. Berry *op. cit.* Type 5, PL 3, 10.